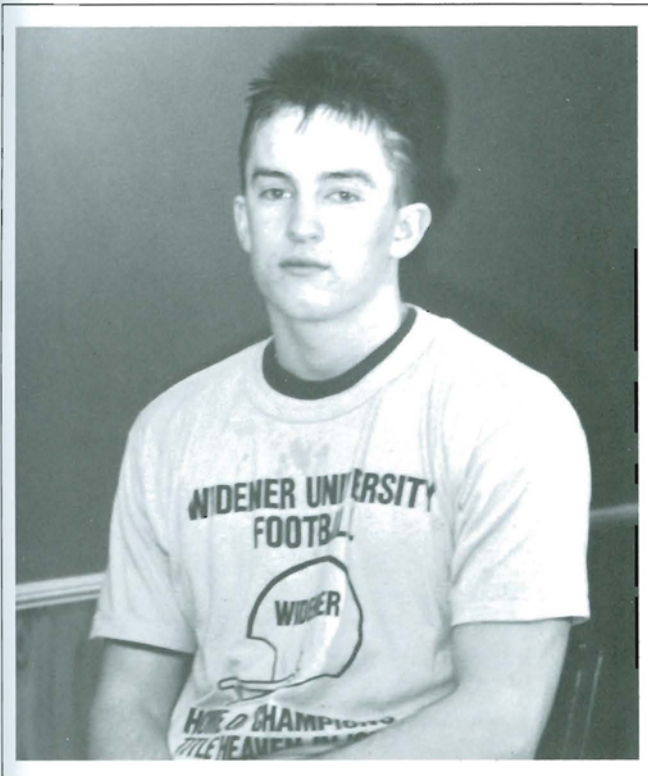


DAN SANTHOUSE

WIDENER
UNIVERSITY



Dan Santhouse – Slotback
Sophomore 5' 9" 166 pounds.

I'd like to tell you a neat story about a special athlete from a great division III university who plays for a special coach. The athlete's name is Dan Santhouse, but he doesn't look big, fast or strong. Well, the plain truth of the matter is best told by Head Football Coach Bill Manlove who praises Dan by stating, "Dan's an amazing guy. He isn't big and doesn't look like a great athlete but he always gets the job done. Dan only has 4.8 speed but he performs on the field."

You, the reader, may say, "Well that's nice but what's he doing in the Bigger Faster Stronger Journal." Three reasons. First, Dan has overcome some obstacles just to play college football. Second, he is an upper limit person and third, Dan can do the BFS Dot Drill quicker than anybody!

His record of 36.6 seconds is a blistering pace. The Widener coaches make sure Dan hits all the dots when going through the drill. Dan likes the Dot Drill and practices 2 to 3 times per week. The dots are set up right at the fieldhouse. In his freshman year, Dan did the Dot Drill in a respectable 53.2 seconds. Then, he set a goal to break 38 seconds. This year as a sophomore, Dan not only broke the 38 second barrier, but he set an American record of 36.6 seconds. I call it an American record even though obviously records are not officially kept. Still, I've never heard of anyone doing it faster. Thousands of

athletes do the Dot Drill and are timed consistently and I can tell you this: When you can do the Dot Drill in 36 seconds, your feet are a blur. Therefore, Dan Santhouse, we at BFS officially proclaim you the American Dot Drill Champ!

Widener University is located in Chester, Pennsylvania which is a suburb of Philadelphia. It has an enrollment of about 2200 students and plays in the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC). It's one of the toughest conferences in Division III football. Widener has been conference champs 8 times in Head Coach Bill Manlove's 19 year tenure. Not only that, Widener has been crowned NCAA Division III National Champions in 1977 and once again in 1981.

They play on natural grass at Memorial Stadium which has a 4500 seat capacity. It's nicknamed "The Temple of Doom" This is for a good reason. There have been 19 undefeated seasons at Memorial Stadium since 1930 and under Coach Manlove nearly 90% of the games have been won at home. Playing the Pioneers of Widener on their turf is obviously no picnic.

Coach Manlove is the winningest active coach in Division III football and in the top four among all coaches. He stated, "We used to jump rope but we like the dot drill so much we're going to it exclusively for our agility training. It's amazing to see lineman start out

"I just knew I could play college football. I've always felt; If you want to do it bad enough, you can do it."

Dan Santhouse

doing the dot drill in 85 to 90 seconds and then see them break sixty." In Fact, six other returning Widener players have broken 50 seconds besides Dan. Three of them are lineman!

Widener University has quite a history dating back to 1821 and now offers 52 major programs of study leading to a full range of degrees including a doctoral degree. The average board score is over one thousand so Dan Santhouse needs every brain cell functioning properly just to compete in the classroom. Dan went to Nashiminy High School in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. He graduated 58th out of 710 putting him up in the top 9% of his senior

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DAN SANTHOUSE – Continued from page 63

class. Dan played football under Dick Bedesem and started for three years. At Nashiminy, he also was an outstanding basketball and baseball player. Dan only weighed 145 pounds but was named as an All County Football Player. He benched 180 and cleaned 190 pounds.

I asked Dan what made him think he could play college football being so small. He responded, "I just knew I could play college ball. I've always felt; if you want to do it bad enough you can do it. I selected Widener because of it's great engineering school and I wanted to play football. "Dan in planning on graduating and his major is Electrical Engineering he carries a 2.5

GPA in this tough major. Dan plans on working for an electric company after graduation.

I inquired, "Dan, don't people worry about you. You're only 5' 9" and 166 pounds. You've had two shoulder separations and because of that your bench is only 210. Your squat is only 360 pounds." Dan laughed, "My grandmother worries about me but my mother is tougher than I am. Both my mom and dad support me 100 percent."

Dan didn't play much his freshman year. He caught two passes for 22 yards and rushed four times for 17 yards. However, last season which was Dan's sophomore year, he really caught fire. He was the team's leading receiver and became the first Widener back to go over 100 yards receiving twice in a season. One of those was against undefeated national power Susquehanna. Bill Royds, assistant football and strength coach, bubbled, "Greg you should have seen it. Dan layed parallel to the ground and caught a key pass to lead us to an upset victory over Susquehanna. I was really happy for him. He's one of our group leaders. Dan's just

"If you work hard on your body to build it, why reverse the process by doing something stupid."

Dan Santhouse

been an absolute pleasure to have in our program."

It wasn't easy and it probably should not have happened. Dan explains, "I was going to quit football because of my neck. The doctor told me I should. I had always played defense but then I had an idea. Playing offense would be better for my neck so I switched reluctantly to my slotback position. Along with my dot drill goal. I set a goal to start. I was fortunate things worked out. I really believe to be successful you should



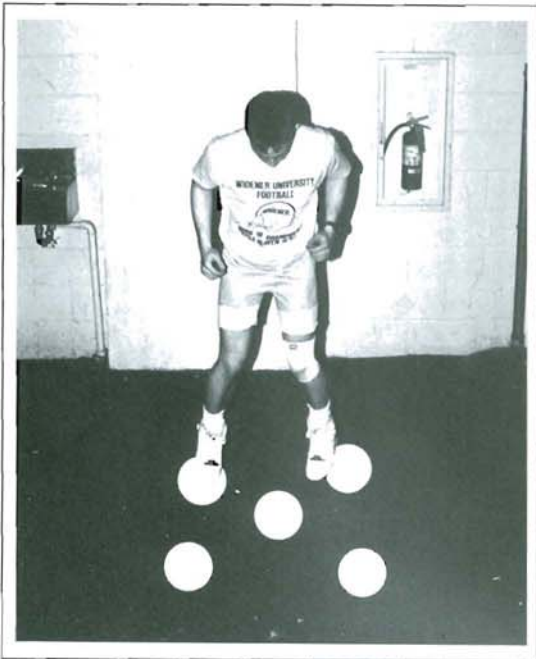
Dan Santhouse #4 gets excited.
Widener University has had
18 straight winning seasons!

just work as hard as you can."

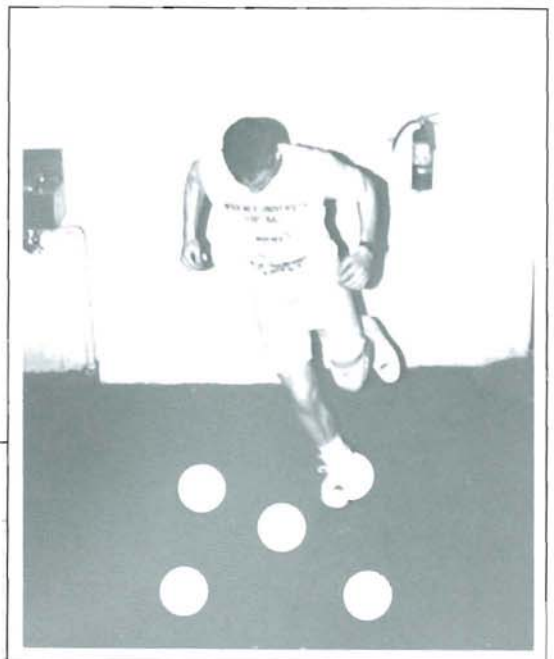
I thanked Dan for his answer and asked, "Dan a lot of kids mean well but let peer pressure dictate their lives especially when it comes to drugs and alcohol. What do you say?" He responded, "There's a lot of peer pressure at college. I don't know much about drugs but everyone should make their own decision. You just hurt yourself. If you work hard on your body to build it why reverse the process by doing something stupid. I'm not bothered by people asking me to do drugs or drink. Me, I just like to dance and have fun without it. I've never been offered drugs too much."

We at BFS thank Head Coach Bill Manlove and assistant coach Bill Royds who made this article possible. We thank the sports information department and John Douglas for their cooperation. Most of all, we thank Dan Santhouse for the great example he has set for all to follow and maybe, just maybe, like the Widener University NFL legend Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, Dan Santhouse will become nationally acclaimed as the "Quickest Feet From Coast to Coast."

I. Up and Back



II. Right Foot



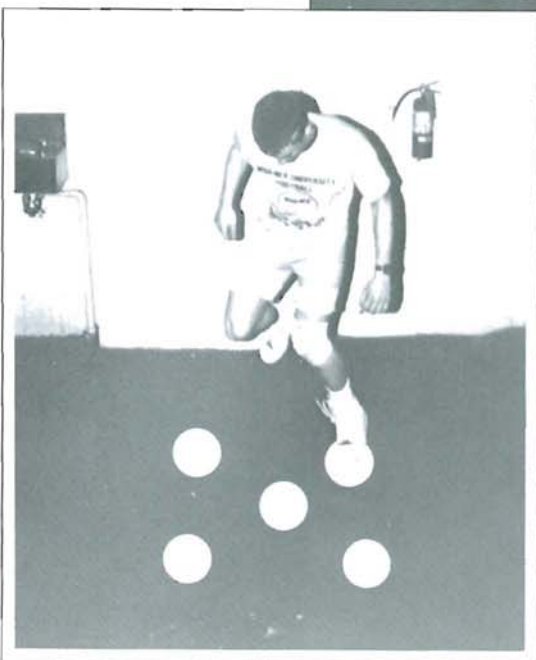
THE BFS DOT DRILL

All photos by John Ferko

**AMERICAN
RECORD**



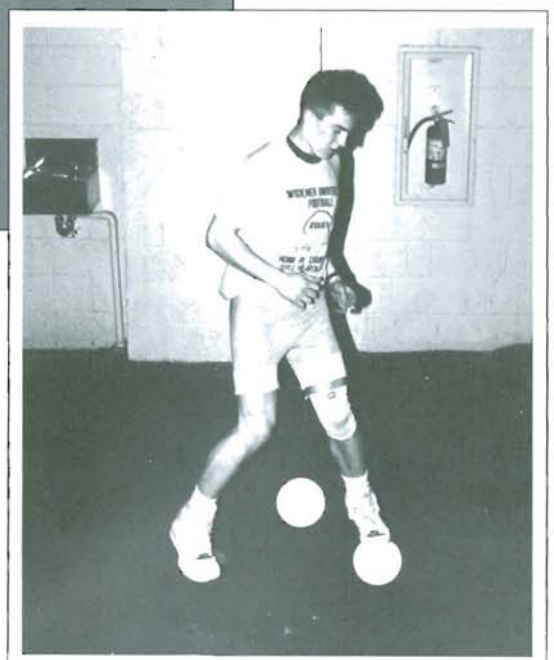
36.6



III. Left Foot

IV. BOTH FEET

**DAN
SANTHOUSE
SLOT BACK
WIDENER
UNIVERSITY**



V. Turn Around